

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number : 07-256972
(43)Date of publication of application : 09.10.1995

(51)Int.CI. B41J 21/00
B41J 2/52
G06F 3/12

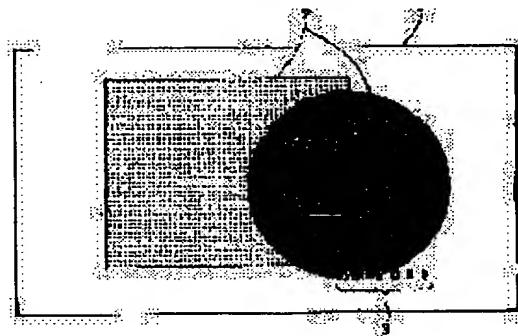
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(54) PRINTER

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To enable printing output of such a synthetic picture image as to be able to discriminate easily a caption character irrespective of density or a color tone of a background picture, in a printer outputting a synthetic picture image of the background picture and caption character.

CONSTITUTION: A printer forms synthetic printing data based on data of the first picture image 2 and data of the second picture image 3 and outputs a synthetic picture image by the synthetic printing data. Both the printing data are compared with each other at a position where the first picture image and second picture image are piled upon each other and in the case where a difference in picture density is within a preset density range, a picture synthesizing processing part which allows at least either one out of density of a sphere of the first picture image 2 upon which the second picture image 3 is piled and the density of the second picture image 3 to change is provided.



LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination]

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

composited based on said composite printing data, the printer being characterized in comprising an image composite processing part in which the first and second print data

corresponding to the position in which said first picture

5 image and second picture image overlap each other are compared

and if the difference between the image color shown by the first print data and that shown by the second print data is within a predetermined range, at least one of the color of the first picture image and the color of the second picture image

10 is changed in the overlapping area of said first picture image and said second picture image.

[Claim 3] The printer as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2,

wherein the data of said first picture image in the overlapping area of said first and second picture images is deleted, and the data of said second picture image is inserted into the part where the data of said first picture image is deleted.

15 [Claim 4] The printer as claimed in any one of claim 1 to claim 3, wherein said second picture image is constituted with characters, mark or the combination thereof.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]
20 [Field of the Invention]

5 [What is Claimed is:]
[Claim 1] A printer generating a composite printing data based on a first print data corresponding to a first picture image and a second print data corresponding to a second picture image, and printing and outputting a picture image

10 composited based on said composite printing data, the printer being characterized in comprising an image composite

processing part in which the first and second print data corresponding to the position in which said first picture image and second picture image overlap each other are compared

15 and if the difference between the image density shown by the first print data and that shown by the second print data is within a predetermined range, at least one of the density of the first picture image and the density of the second picture image is changed in the overlapping area of said first picture

20 image and said second picture image.

[Claim 2] A printer generating a composite printing data based on a first print data corresponding to a first picture image and a second print data corresponding to a second picture image, and printing and outputting a picture image

25 [Field of the Invention]
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The present invention relates to printers, and especially relates to, in a printer for compositing a background image with a character information image, such as caption characters, to print and output, the art for making 5 the character information image easy to discriminate by adjusting the density or color of the background image and the character information image.

[Prior Arts]

10 For example, to make a printed matter for explaining a product, one print image is required to be outputted and formed by compositing a photographic image of the product, which is prepared as the background in advance, with a character image for explaining the product, such as a caption, 15 character, mark or the like. Fig. 10 shows an example as described above conceptually, and shows a picture image printed by a printer. In this figure, a background image 12 and a character image 13 are present in a print area 11. The background image 12 is a background picture image such as a 20 photograph, and the character image 13 is an character picture image, such as a caption, character, mark or the like.

As one of the methods for compositing two images, that is, the background image and the character image to print and output by a printer, the method is present which takes the 25 print data of the background image together with the print

data of the character image into the printer and composites these data in the printer to print as one print data. With this method, a print in which characters are composited with an image such as a product is able to be formed.

5 As a conventional method for compositing the print data of the background image with the print data of the character image, the method is present which directly applies the background image data and character image data so as to utilize as the print data. In this case, the print image 10 printed and outputted is the one in which the character image is directly superimposed on the background image.

[Subjects To Be Solved By the Invention]

In the conventional printer as described above, the 15 character image data is directly applied on the background image data, and the character image is just superimposed on the background image. Accordingly, the superimposed character image may be very difficult to be distinguished or cannot be distinguished at all, depending on the density, color or 20 design of the background image.

For example, in the aforementioned picture image shown in Fig. 10, the background image 12 has a high density image part like black, and the character image 13 is also an picture image of high density like black. Accordingly, in the area in 25 which the character image 13 is superimposed on the high

density part of the background image 12, it is difficult to distinguish the character image 13 from the background image 12.

In the image composite method directly superimposing the character image on the background image, the image printed and outputted after composition may becomes an image in which either one of the background image and the character image having greater density has priority. Accordingly, for example, in the case of monochrome printing, if the density of the background is greater, the superimposed character image cannot be distinguished. In the case of color printing, if the tone of the background is similar to that of the character image, the boundary between the background image and the character image becomes unclear, and thus recognition of the character image may become difficult.

To prevent the inconvenience caused by superimposing the character image on the background image as described above, the method is proposed in which the character image is arranged in the area having no background image, or arranged in the area of the background image having different density or tone from that of the character image. However, by selecting the position having different density or tone from that of the character image as well as low image density in the background image, as the position to place the character image, such inconvenience occurs wherein degree of freedom in

design is limited.

The method is also present for making the character image stand out by deleting the print data of the background image in the peripheral area of the character image, that is, by reversing the background image around the character image, so as to make the character image easy to distinguish. However, if a part of the background image is reversed to white, for example, a part of a product image in the background image may be lost, and thus such inconvenience occurs wherein the information about the product becomes incomplete.

Accordingly, an object of the present invention is, in the printer compositing the background image with the character image and the like to output, to provide a composition method which is able to discriminate the composited characters and the like easily without fail, no matter what density, color, design the background has.

Another object of the present invention is, in the printer compositing the background image with the character image and the like to output, to provide a composition method which is able to composite the background image with the character image with limiting the lack of the background image information to a minimum.

Still another object of the present invention is, in the printer compositing the background image with the character image and the like to output, to provide a composition method

which is able to reduce the restriction of the degree of freedom in design about the position in which the character image is composited with the background image.

5 [Method for Solving the Subjects]

For solving the aforementioned problems, the printer of the present invention is a printer generating a composite printing data based on a first print data corresponding to a first picture image and a second print data corresponding to a second picture image, and printing and outputting a picture image composited based on the composite printing data, the printer being characterized in comprising an image composite processing part in which the first and second print data corresponding to the position in which the first picture image 10 and second picture image overlap each other are compared and if the difference between the image density or color shown by the first print data and that shown by the second print data is within a predetermined range, at least one of the density or color of the first picture image and the density or color 15 of the second picture image is changed in the overlapping area of the first picture image and the second picture image.

The data of the first picture image in the overlapping area of the first and second picture images may be deleted, and the data of the second picture image may be inserted into 20 the part where the data of the first picture image is deleted.

[Action]

5 With such an arrangement, the image composite processing part provided in the printer generates a composite print data from the print data of the first picture image, such as a photograph, and the print data of the second picture image, such as characters or a mark, and a composite picture image, 10 in which, for example, a caption character image is composited with a background image, is printed and outputted based on the composite print data. The image composite processing part compares the density or tone of the first and second picture images in the overlapping area of the first and second picture images, for example, by a print dot unit, and, if the difference therebetween is within the range set in advance, changes at least one of the density or tone of the first picture image and that of the second picture image in the overlapping area of the first picture image and the second 15 picture image.

Namely, when the density or tone in the overlapping area of the first picture image and the second picture image is similar to the density or tone of the second picture image, at least one of the density or tone of the first and second 20 picture images is changed, thereby such a picture image is

able to be printed and outputted wherein the density or tone in the second picture image area is different from that of the first picture image. Accordingly, the picture image in which the caption characters are composited is able to be printed and outputted in the state of being easily discriminated.

irrespective of the density or tone of the background image.

By making the density or tone changing area of the first picture image not only the overlapping area of the first and second picture images but also the area including the periphery of the second picture image, the second picture image is made to be easily discriminated without changing the density or tone of the second picture image. Accordingly, for example, even if the background image changes with a fine pattern, the composition is performed in the state of easy discrimination without changing the density or tone of the caption characters or the like in the fine pattern. Further, the first picture image around the second picture image is changed only its density or tone, and is never reversed. Thus lack of the information of the first picture image, such as a photograph, is able to be limited to a minimum.

By deleting the data of the first picture image in the overlapping area of the first and second picture images and inserting the data of the second picture image instead thereof, the data of the first picture image is able to be replaced with the data of the second picture image. Thus, for example,

in the case of compositing a black background image with white caption characters, the influence of the background image is removed with a simple method, to make the caption characters easy to discriminate.

[Preferred Embodiments of the Invention]

Embodiments of the present invention are described below referring to the drawings. Firstly, described is a printer for performing single color printing relating to a first embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 1 is a picture image printed and outputted by the printer of the present invention, in which a background image 2, such as a photograph, is composited with caption characters 3 in the print area of a recording paper. A part of the caption characters 3 and the high density part of the background image 2 are overlapped. The caption characters 3 are originally designated to be printed and displayed as a black line drawing. However, in the overlapping part with the background 2, the caption characters are printed in reverse white to the background image 2 with the reversed density.

The image data for printing and outputting the picture image shown in Fig. 1 is dealt with as the print data of print dot defined in Fig. 4. The print dot is a unit pixel constituting a picture image. In Fig. 4, a picture image 8 is shown in a print area 7, and the print area 7 is constituted

with 1024 dots arranged in the direction perpendicular to the print direction A and 1280 lines arranged in the print direction A with the 1024 dots as one line. The position of the print dot constituting the picture image 8 is defined with 5 the line number and dot number in the print area 7. The dot number and line number constituting the print area 7 are different depending on the size of the print area 7 and the pixel density of the picture image 8.

In the same way as the picture image 8 in Fig. 4, the 10 print dot of the caption characters 3 in the picture image in Fig. 1 is defined with the line number and dot number of the print area 7. The print data about the caption characters is inputted separately from the print data of the background image, and is treated as another data. However, the position 15 of the print dot constituting each picture image is treated with the common line number and dot number. The position capable of displaying the caption characters in the print area 7 is decided with the dot number and line number in the print area 7 in advance. For example, in the printer set to be able 20 to enter 20 caption characters, the area capable of displaying 20 caption characters is set with the line number and dot number in the predetermined position within the print area 7.

Fig. 5 shows a caption character drawing part 10 in the caption character display area 9 as a print dot data. In this 25 example, the caption character display area 9 is defined as

the print dots in the area from 700th line to 715th line and from 1000th dot to 1015th dot in the print area 7 (Fig. 4). The caption character display area 9 may be decided in advance as the specification of the printer, or may be set by a user 5 optionally.

The procedure of the image process for outputting the picture image, which is constituted with the print dot as described above and in which the density of the caption characters 3 is reversed as shown in Fig. 1, is described in 10 detail referring to Fig. 6. Fig. 6 is a flowchart showing the process for outputting the print data for one line of the composite image generated by compositing the background image with the caption image.

When the image data to be the background and the caption 15 character data are transmitted to the printer and image composition is designated, the image print data for one line is read in step 101. For example, the case that the nth line is started to be read from the first dot, and the print dot data of the mth dot is read in step 101 is assumed for 20 description.

When the image data for one line is read in step 101, it is discriminated whether or not the line number read in step 101 (the nth line) is the line number including the dot number of the caption character display area, in step 102. If the nth 25 line is discriminated to be the line including the dot number

of the caption character display area, the process advances to step 103 to continue the composite process. If the nth line is not discriminated to be the line including the dot number of the caption character display area, the process advances to

5 step 109, and the background image data for one line of the nth line is directly outputted as the print data.

In step 103, the discrimination is performed whether or not the print dot (the mth dot) in the line read in step 101 (the nth line) is the print dot in the position overlapping 10 with the caption character drawing part. If the mth dot is in the same position as the print dot of the caption character drawing part, the process advances to step 104 to continue the process. If the mth dot does not overlap the caption character drawing part, the process advances to step 108, and the print 15 dot of the background image is not objected to the reversing process and is outputted as the print data directly. In step

104, the density of the print dot of the background image is calculated for the print dot discriminated to overlap with the caption character drawing part.

20 In step 105, the discrimination is performed whether or not the density value of the print dot of the background image calculated in step 104 is larger than a threshold value of the density set in advance. The threshold value of the density set in advance decides the density of the background image for 25 reversing the density of the caption character. Accordingly,

by adjusting the threshold value, the balance between the density of the caption character and that of the background is made appropriate, and the caption characters are displayed in the easiest state to be distinguished.

- 5 If the calculated value of the print dot density of the background is discriminated to be larger than the threshold value in step 105, the process advances to step 107 and the print dot data in the caption character drawing part corresponding to the print dot thereof is reversed to white 10 data. If the calculated value of the print dot density of the background is smaller than the threshold value, the process advances to step 106, and the print dot data of the caption character drawing part corresponding to the print dot thereof is left as it is (black). The value of the print dot data 15 changed in this way is transmitted to a memory (unillustrated) and stored therein.
- In step 108, the discrimination is performed whether or not the caption character display area is finished in the line read in step 101 (the nth line). Namely, it is discriminated 20 whether or not the read mth dot is the dot number in the caption character display area. If the mth dot is not discriminated to be the last dot number in the caption character display area, the flow returns to step 103 and repeats the processes to step 108 for the next print dot (the m+1th dot) in the same line (the nth line). If the mth dot is

discriminated to be the last dot number in the caption character display area, the flow advances to step 109 and the print data for one line is outputted to the print part of the printer together with the print dot data which is stored in the memory and has adjusted the density as described in step 106. Then, the flow returns to step 101 and starts reading the print dot data of the next line (the n+1th line). This procedure is repeated until the print area of the picture image is finished.

10 By performing the process for each one line of the print picture image, and changing the density of the caption character part recognizing the picture image data by the print dot unit in accordance with the steps as described above, the print picture image as shown in Fig. 1, in which the density of the caption characters is reversed in the part overlapping with the background image, is able to be outputted. Accordingly, the density of the caption characters is reduced in the high density part of the background image, while the density of the caption characters is increased in the low density part of the background image. Thus, print and display is performed in the state that the caption characters are easily discriminated irrespective of the density of the background image.

A second embodiment of the present invention performing color printing is described. The picture image performed color

printing and outputted is similar to the picture image shown in Fig. 1 in appearance. The point different from the first embodiment is that the print data is resolved into the data of three colors due to color printing of the picture image.

5 The flow of an image signal in a color printer is described referring to Fig. 3. An image data from a computer or the like is inputted to an image data input part 20, and is outputted to the printing part of the printer from a print data output part 24 via a luminance density conversion

10 processing part 21, color conversion processing part 22 and a caption character composite processing part 23. The character data 27 of the caption characters is inputted to the caption character composite processing part 23. The luminance density conversion processing part 21, color conversion processing

15 part 22, caption character composite processing part 23 and print data output part 24 are each connected to a CPU (central processing unit) 25, and the CPU 25 is connected to a memory

20 26.

20 In the constitution as described above, the image signal from a computer or video is inputted to the image data input part 20 as a video signal resolved into R (red), G (green) and B (blue). In the luminance density conversion processing part 21, the video signal data formed of R, G and B luminous signal

25 for displaying on the display is converted to the data about the density of each color of ink Dr, Dg and Db. For example,

the luminance of the video signal of the data value 255 is white, while the density of the data value 255 in printing corresponds to black. Namely, even in the identical color, the data value of the video data is different from that of the print data, and thus the luminance density conversion processing part 21 converts the data values. The color conversion processing part 22 adjusts the parameter about the density data of the ink of Y (yellow), M (magenta) and C (cyan) matching with the color material used in the printer.

Accordingly, the picture image to be printed and outputted is able to be printed and outputted in the appropriate color without haze.

The caption character composite processing part 23 receives the print data and character data 27 of one of the colors Y, M and C from the color conversion processing part 22 to perform the image composite process, and transmits the result thereof to the print data output part to output to a printing part (unillustrated) of the printer.

The data processes in the luminance density conversion processing part 21, color conversion processing part 22, and print data output part 24 are controlled by the CPU 25, and the data performed composite process is stored in the memory 26 and read out as the occasion demands.

The composite process in the printer performing color

printing in the second embodiment is described referring to the flowchart in Fig. 7. The flowchart in Fig. 7 shows the procedure for, if the background image has a tone close to the caption character color, changing the caption character data to not white but the other color set in advance so as to make the caption character easy to read. For example, in the case of compositing red caption characters with the background image, if the background image has red shade the same as the caption characters, the caption characters are made easy to read by changing the print data in the caption character part of the composite picture image to green data.

The procedure of the image composite process in color printing is basically the same as the procedure of the composite process in the first embodiment. The different point is that the print dot data of the background image overlapping with the caption characters is considered as not the density data but the tone data, and the caption characters are made stand out by changing not only the density but also the color.

In Fig. 7, if the image composition is designated, the data for one line read in step 201 (one of the data of Y, M and C from the color conversion processing part 22 shown in Fig. 3) is discriminated to be the line including the caption character display area in step 202. About the print dot discriminated to overlap with the caption character drawing part in step 203, the color of the background in the position

of the print dot is calculated in step 204. The calculation of the color of the background image is actually performed for the data of each color of Y, M and C described in Fig. 3 to finally decide the color. The calculation value of the background image color is discriminated whether or not the value is within the range of the value set in advance based on the tone of the caption characters. Namely, it is designated whether or not the tone of the background image of the read print dot resembles to the tone of the caption characters and

10 is difficult to distinguish. Concretely, for example, the equation for obtaining the hue is formed based on the print data relating to Y, M and C, and the calculation result is compared with the threshold value set in advance based on the tone of the caption characters, so as to decide whether or not 15 the tone of the background image is similar to that of the caption characters.

If the toner of the print dot is discriminated to be within the tone set in advance, the tone of the caption character part is changed to the tone other than the tone originally set as the caption character tone in step 207. The changed tone may be automatically set in advance as one more color when the caption character color is set at first. If the tone of the background image is out of the range of the tone set in advance, the process advances to step 206 and the color 25 set in advance as the caption character color is directly

displayed.

After performing the process for the tone about one print dot, the discrimination is performed whether or not the caption character display area is finished in step 208 in the same way as the first embodiment. If the discrimination is that the caption character display area is finished, the process advances to step 209 to output the print data for one line, and the process for the tone of the next line is performed.

10 As described above, when the tone of the background image is similar to that of the composited caption characters, the tone of the caption character part is changed to a different tone from the background image to be outputted and displayed. Accordingly, it becomes possible to make the 15 caption characters stand out so as to be distinguished easily, irrespective of the tone of the background image.

A third embodiment of the present invention is described. The present embodiment outputs, in color printing, a print picture image in which the tone of the caption characters is 20 always the tone different from the background image. The print picture image is similar to the picture image shown in Fig. 1. The procedure of the process of the image composite process of the present invention is described referring to Fig. 8. The point different from the second embodiment is that, in 25 this embodiment, the caption character part is always changed

to the tone different from the background image, irrespective that the tone of the caption characters is similar to the toner of the background image. Namely, in the same way as step 201 to step 204 of Fig. 7, the image color of the print dot of 5 the specific line in the background image corresponding to the drawing part of the caption characters is calculated in step 301 to step 304. In step 305, the image color data of the print dot is always changed to the value different from the image color data of the background image. The changed 10 destination tone may be decided following the equation formed in advance based on the calculated hue data of the print dot of the background image. As a result, the tone of each part of the caption characters always becomes a different tone from that of the background image, and thus the caption characters 15 are able to be made stand out and distinguished easily.

A fourth embodiment of the present invention is described. The first to third embodiments described above make the caption characters easy to distinguish by changing the print dot density or the color data of only the caption 20 character drawing part in the print picture image. However, in the background image used actually, the density and tone may change in a fine cycle. For example, such a case is present wherein, to make the printed picture image appear gray, a fine pattern checker is drawn in a print dot unit so as to make the 25 whole image appear gray. If the caption characters are to be

composited with such a fine pattern background image as described above, the density of the caption characters changes corresponding to the checker pattern of the background image to be reversed to a mosaic pattern. As a result, the density 5 of the caption characters may appear gray and become difficult to be distinguished from the background image. In the same way also in color printing, even if the tone of the caption character drawing part is changed on the background image in which the tone changes with a fine pattern, discrimination of 10 the caption characters may not be improved.

The fourth embodiment makes the discrimination of the caption characters easy, in compositing the caption characters with the background image in which the tone changes with such a fine pattern. Fig. 2 shows the picture image printed and 15 outputted in the present embodiment and displays the image with changing the tone of the background image around the caption characters. In this figure, a background image 5 is composited with caption characters 6 in a print area 4. As obvious from the figure, the tone of the periphery of the 20 caption characters 6 in the background image 5 overlapping with the caption characters 6 is different from the original tone of the background image 5, so as to discriminate the caption characters 6 easily. In the part in which the tone is different around of the caption characters 6, the outline of 25 the background image 5 is able to be discriminated because the

background image 5 is not completely reversed to white.

The procedure of the image composite process of the fourth embodiment is described based on the flowchart in Fig.

9. The processes in steps 401, 402, and 404 are the same as 5 those of the first to third embodiments. The image data for one line is discriminated whether or not the line is the one in which the caption characters are included, and is discriminated whether or not it is the print dot present in the position corresponding to the caption character drawing 10 part. If the discrimination is that the print dot is not the one in the caption character drawing part but the one in the caption character display area 9 (Fig. 5) in steps 403 and 404, the tone data of the print dot is changed to the tone data which is other than the tone set as the caption character 15 color in advance and other than the tone of the background image. Since the caption characters should be made easy to distinguish, the picture image in the caption character display area may be reduced its density or rewritten in completely different color. If the print dot is discriminated 20 to be the one in the caption character drawing part in step 404, the print dot data is left as the tone data set in advance as the caption character color in step 406.

The discrimination is performed whether or not the processes of step 403 to step 406 have been finished for all 25 print dots in the caption character display area in step 407.

If the processes have been finished for all print dots in the caption character display area, the print data for one line is outputted.

- By changing the hue and density of the background image 5 in the caption character peripheral area, the image composition is performed in the state that the caption characters stand out even on the background image changing with a fine pattern. Accordingly, the caption characters are easily discriminated, and the background image is only changed 10 its tone and never reversed, thereby image information is able to be remained to some extent. Thus, even in the case of putting a product or the like as the background image, lack of the information about the product is able to greatly reduced. Though, in the four embodiments described above, the 15 composition of the character data of the caption characters is performed at the timing after the image data is converted to the print data in the color conversion part 22 in Fig. 3, it may be performed at another timing. For example, if the character data of the caption characters is composited before 20 the color conversion is performed in the color conversion part 22, the color of the caption characters is able to be converted together with the color of the background image, and it is prevented that coloring of the caption characters unnaturally stands out in the background image.
- 25 In the four embodiments described above, the case of

compositing the background image with the caption characters which is comparatively smaller than the background image is described. However, the printer of the present invention is applicable as far as in the case of compositing a plurality of 5 picture images and outputting the composite picture image.

[Effects of the Invention]

As described above, in printing and outputting the composite picture image in which the character image is 10 compositing with the background image, the present invention is able to print and output it as the picture image in which the character image is automatically made stand out so as to be easy to distinguish. Accordingly, even in the case of compositing the caption characters with the background to

15 print, the operation for changing the density and tone of the caption characters in accordance with the density and tone of the background image is unnecessary, and thus print of the composite picture image becomes very easy.

In deciding the position for putting the caption 20 characters, there is no need to select the area of the density and tone appropriate to the caption characters in the background image, and thus, degree of freedom in design of the composite picture image is never limited.

By changing the density and tone of the background image 25 around the character image in the composite picture image,

printing and display are performed with the character image standing out, irrespective of the density of the background image and the image pattern of the tone. Since the background image in that part is only changed the density and tone and is never reversed, lack of the information of the background image is able to be limited to a minimum.

By replacing the background image data in the position overlapping with the character image to the character image data, for example, in the case of compositing white caption 10 characters with a black background image, the picture image in which the caption characters stand out is able to be printed and outputted by means of the very simple method.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

Fig. 1 is an illustration showing a picture image printed and outputted by the printer relating to a first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is an illustration showing a picture image printed and outputted by the printer relating to another 15 embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a block diagram schematically showing the flow of an image signal of color printing in the printer of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is an illustration showing the arrangement of the 20 printer of the picture image recognized by the printer of

the present invention;

Fig. 5 is an illustration showing the image data constituting the print dot of the character data of a caption character;

Fig. 6 is a flowchart for performing the image composition by the printer relating to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 7 is a flowchart for performing the image composition by the printer relating to a second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 8 is a flowchart for performing the image composition by the printer relating to a third embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 9 is a flowchart for performing the image composition by the printer relating to a fourth embodiment of the present invention; and

Fig. 10 is an illustration showing the picture image printed and outputted by a conventional printer.

- 20 Image data input part
- 21 Luminance density conversion processing part
- 22 Color conversion processing part
- 23 Caption character composite processing part
- 5 24 Print data output part
- 25 CPU
- 26 Memory
- 27 Character data

the present invention;

Fig. 5 is an illustration showing the image data constituting the print dot of the character data of a caption character;

Fig. 6 is a flowchart for performing the image composition by the printer relating to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 7 is a flowchart for performing the image composition by the printer relating to a second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 8 is a flowchart for performing the image composition by the printer relating to a third embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 9 is a flowchart for performing the image composition by the printer relating to a fourth embodiment of the present invention; and

Fig. 10 is an illustration showing the picture image printed and outputted by a conventional printer.

- 20 [Description of the References]
 - 1, 4, 7 and 11 Printing areas
 - 2, 5, 8 and 12 Background areas
 - 3, 6, and 13 Character images
 - 9 Caption character drawing part
 - 25 10 Caption character display area

7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 495 496 497 498 499 499 500 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 595 596 597 598 599 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 695 696 697 698 699 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 795 796 797 798 799 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 895 896 897 898 899 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 959 960 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1150 1151 1152 1153 1154 1155 1156 1157 1158 1159 1159 1160 1161 1162 1163 1164 1165 1166 1167 1168 1169 1169 1170 1171 1172 1173 1174 1175 1176 1177 1178 1178 1179 1180 1181 1182 1183 1184 1185 1186 1187 1188 1189 1189 1190 1191 1192 1193 1194 1195 1195 1196 1197 1198 1199 1199 1200 1201 1202 1203 1204 1205 1206 1207 1208 1209 1209 1210 1211 1212 1213 1214 1215 1216 1217 1218 1219 1219 1220 1221 1222 1223 1224 1225 1226 1227 1228 1229 1229 1230 1231 1232 1233 1234 1235 1236 1237 1238 1239 1239 1240 1241 1242 1243 1244 1245 1246 1247 1248 1249 1249 1250 1251 1252 1253 1254 1255 1256 1257 1258 1259 1259 1260 1261 1262 1263 1264 1265 1266 1267 1268 1269 1269 1270 1271 1272 1273 1274 1275 1276 1277 1278 1278 1279 1280 1281 1282 1283 1284 1285 1286 1287 1288 1289 1289 1290 1291 1292 1293 1294 1295 1295 1296 1297 1298 1299 1299 1300 1301 1302 1303 1304 1305 1306 1307 1308 1309 1309 1310 1311 1312 1313 1314 1315 1316 1317 1318 1319 1319 1320 1321 1322 1323 1324 1325 1326 1327 1328 1329 1329 1330 1331 1332 1333 1334 1335 1336 1337 1338 1339 1339 1340 1341 1342 1343 1344 1345 1346 1347 1348 1349 1349 1350 1351 1352 1353 1354 1355 1356 1357 1358 1359 1359 1360 1361 1362 1363 1364 1365 1366 1367 1368 1369 1369 1370 1371 1372 1373 1374 1375 1376 1377 1378 1378 1379 1380 1381 1382 1383 1384 1385 1386 1387 1388 1389 1389 1390 1391 1392 1393 1394 1395 1395 1396 1397 1398 1399 1399 1400 1401 1402 1403 1404 1405 1406 1407 1408 1408 1409 1410 1411 1412 1413 1414 1415 1416 1417 1418 1419 1419 1420 1421 1422 1423 1424 1425 1426 1427 1428 1429 1429 1430 1431 1432 1433 1434 1435 1436 1437 1438 1439 1439 1440 1441 1442 1443 1444 1445 1446 1447 1448 1449 1449 1450 1451 1452 1453 1454 1455 1456 1457 1458 1459 1459 1460 1461 1462 1463 1464 1465 1466 1467 1468 1469 1469 1470 1471 1472 1473 1474 1475 1476 1477 1478 1478 1479 1480 1481 1482 1483 1484 1485 1486 1487 1488 1489 1489 1490 1491 1492 1493 1494 1495 1495 1496 1497 1498 1499 1499 1500 1501 1502 1503 1504 1505 1506 1507 1508 1508 1509 1510 1511 1512 1513 1514 1515 1516 1517 1518 1519 1519 1520 1521 1522 1523 1524 1525 1526 1527 1528 1529 1529 1530 1531 1532 1533 1534 1535 1536 1537 1538 1539 1539 1540 1541 1542 1543 1544 1545 1546 1547 1548 1549 1549 1550 1551 1552 1553 1554 1555 1556 1557 1558 1559 1559 1560 1561 1562 1563 1564 1565 1566 1567 1568 1569 1569 1570 1571 1572 1573 1574 1575 1576 1577 1578 1578 1579 1580 1581 1582 1583 1584 1585 1586 1587 1588 1589 1589 1590 1591 1592 1593 1594 1595 1595 1596 1597 1598 1599 1599 1600 1601 1602 1603 1604 1605 1606 1607 1608 1608 1609 1610 1611 1612 1613 1614 1615 1616 1617 1618 1619 1619 1620 1621 1622 1623 1624 1625 1626 1627 1628 1629 1629 1630 1631 1632 1633 1634 1635 1636 1637 1638 1639 1639 1640 1641 1642 1643 1644 1645 1646 1647 1648 1649 1649 1650 1651 1652 1653 1654 1655 1656 1657 1658 1659 1659 1660 1661 1662 1663 1664 1665 1666 1667 1668 1669 1669 1670 1671 1672 1673 1674 1675 1676 1677 1678 1678 1679 1680 1681 1682 1683 1684 1685 1686 1687 1688 1689 1689 1690 1691 1692 1693 1694 1695 1695 1696 1697 1698 1699 1699 1700 1701 1702 1703 1704 1705 1706 1707 1708 1708 1709 1710 1711 1712 1713 1714 1715 1716 1717 1718 1719 1719 1720 1721 1722 1723 1724 1725 1726 1727 1728 1729 1729 1730 1731 1732 1733 1734 1735 1736 1737 1738 1739 1739 1740 1741 1742 1743 1744 1745 1746 1747 1748 1749 1749 1750 1751 1752 1753 1754 1755 1756 1757 1758 1759 1759 1760 1761 1762 1763 1764 1765 1766 1767 1768 1769 1769 1770 1771 1772 1773 1774 1775 1776 1777 1778 1778 1779 1780 1781 1782 1783 1784 1785 1786 1787 1788 1789 1789 1790 1791 1792 1793 1794 1795 1795 1796 1797 1798 1799 1799 1800 1801 1802 1803 1804 1805 1806 1807 1808 1808 1809 1810 1811 1812 1813 1814 1815 1816 1817 1818 1819 1819 1820 1821 1822 1823 1824 1825 1826 1827 1828 1829 1829 1830 1831 1832 1833 1834 1835 1836 1837 1838 1839 1839 1840 1841 1842 1843 1844 1845 1846 1847 1848 1849 1849 1850 1851 1852 1853 1854 1855 1856 1857 1858 1859 1859 1860 1861 1862 1863 1864 1865 1866 1867 1868 1869 1869 1870 1871 1872 1873 1874 1875 1876 1877 1878 1878 1879 1880 1881 1882 1883 1884 1885 1886 1887 1888 1889 1889 1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1895 1896 1897 1898 1899 1899 1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1908 1909 1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1919 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1929 1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2039 2040

11 3, 4 0 4 でその印刷ドットが、キャブション文字表示領域

部分の印刷ドットではないが、キャブション文字表示領域

域9(図5)の印刷ドットであると判断された場合は、

ステップ4 0 5で、その印刷ドットとして色調のデータを、
あらかじめキャブション文字色として設定されたデータに変更する。このキャブション文字表示領域の画像イメージは、
キャブション文字を識別しやすくなればよいので、密度を小さくしたりあるいは全く別の色に書き換えてよい。ステップ4 0 4で印刷ドットがキャブション文字表示領域部分の印刷ドットであると判断された場合は、
ステップ4 0 6でその印刷ドットのデータをキャブション文字色としてあらかじめ設定された色調のデータのま

まにしておく。

[0 0 4 8] 次にステップ4 0 7で、キャブション文字表示領域内の全ての印刷ドットについてステップ4 0 3 からステップ4 0 6までの処理が終わらかうか判断し、キャブション文字表示領域内の全ての印刷ドットについて終了した場合には、ステップ4 0 8でプリンタ部分のプリントデータを出力する。

[0 0 4 9] このように、キャブション文字周辺領域の背景画像の色調や密度を変化させることによって、細かいパターンで変化する背景画像であってもキャブション文字を隠した状態で画像合成することができます。しかし、キャブション文字を識別しやすくなることができ、かつ背景画像は色調が変わらなければ白抜きにならず画像情報をある程度残すことができる、背景画像として商品などを入れる場合でも商品に関する情報の大

将を極めて低く抑えられることができます。

[0 0 5 0] なお、以上説明した4つの実施例では、キャブション文字の文字データを合成するタイミングとして、図3の色変換部2 2で画像データをプリントデータに変換した後で行っているが、他のタイミングでもよい。たとえば、色変換部2 2で色変換を行う前にキャブション文字の文字データを合成すれば、キャブション文字の色を背景画像と共に色変換することができます。キャブション文字の色が背景画像から不自然に隠立つことを防ぐことができる。

[0 0 5 1] さらに、以上説明した4つの実施例では、背景画像にその背景画像よりも比較的小さなキャブション文字を合成する場合について説明したが、本発明のプリンタ装置は、複数の画像イメージを合成して合成画像イメージを出力する場合であれば適用可能である。

[0 0 5 2] [発明の効果] 以上のように、本発明によれば、背景画像に文字画像を合成した合成画像を印刷出力する場合に、自動的に文字画像を背景画像から隠立たせてい識別しやすくした画像イメージとして印刷出力することができる。したがって、背景画像にキャブション文字の密度や合成して印刷する場合でも、キャブション文字の密度や

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13 2.2 色変換処理部

2.3 キャブション文字合成処理部

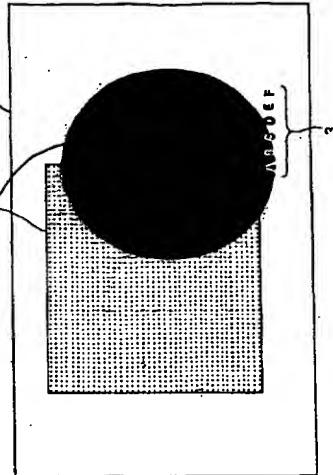
2.4 プリントデータ出力部

2.5 CPU

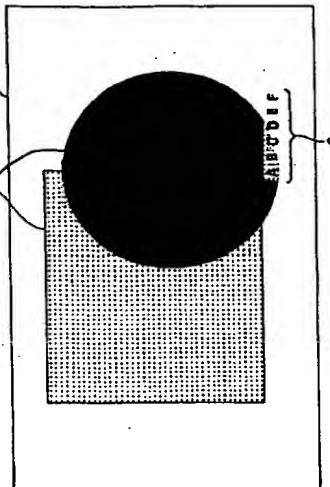
2.6 メモリ

2.7 文字データ

[図1]



[図2]



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2.8 背景画像

2.9 文字表示領域

2.10 文字表示領域

2.11 文字表示領域

2.12 文字表示領域

2.13 文字表示領域

2.14 文字表示領域

2.15 文字表示領域

2.16 文字表示領域

2.17 文字表示領域

2.18 文字表示領域

2.19 文字表示領域

2.20 文字表示領域

2.21 文字表示領域

2.22 文字表示領域

2.23 文字表示領域

2.24 文字表示領域

2.25 文字表示領域

[図3] 本発明の1実施例に係るプリンタ装置によつて印刷された画像イメージを示す説明図である。

[図4] 本発明の他の実施例に係るプリンタ装置によつて、たとえば白色のキャブション文字を黒色の背景画像に合成する場合には、極めて簡単な方法でキャブション文字を隠したされた画像イメージを印刷出力することができます。

[図5] 本発明の1実施例に係るプリンタ装置によつて印刷された画像イメージを示す説明図である。

[図6] 本発明の第1の実施例に係るプリンタ装置によつて印刷された画像イメージを示す説明図である。

[図7] 本発明の第2の実施例に係るプリンタ装置によつて画像合成を行うためのフローチャートである。

[図8] 本発明の第3の実施例に係るプリンタ装置によつて画像合成を行うためのフローチャートである。

[図9] 本発明の第4の実施例に係るプリンタ装置によつて画像合成を行うためのフローチャートである。

[図10] 本発明の第1実施例に係るプリンタ装置によつて印刷出力した画像を示す説明図である。

[図11] 本発明の第2実施例に係るプリンタ装置によつて印刷出力した画像を示す説明図である。

[図12] 本発明の第3実施例に係るプリンタ装置によつて印刷出力した画像を示す説明図である。

[図13] 本発明の第4実施例に係るプリンタ装置によつて印刷出力した画像を示す説明図である。

[図14] 本発明の実施例によつて印刷出力した画像を示す説明図である。

[図15] 本発明の実施例によつて印刷出力した画像を示す説明図である。

[図16] 本発明の実施例によつて印刷出力した画像を示す説明図である。

[図17] 本発明の実施例によつて印刷出力した画像を示す説明図である。

[図18] 本発明の実施例によつて印刷出力した画像を示す説明図である。

[図19] 本発明の実施例によつて印刷出力した画像を示す説明図である。

[図20] 本発明の実施例によつて印刷出力した画像を示す説明図である。

[図21] 本発明の実施例によつて印刷出力した画像を示す説明図である。

[図22] 本発明の実施例によつて印刷出力した画像を示す説明図である。

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13 1.4.7.1.1 印刷領域

2.5.8.1.2 背景領域

3.6.1.3 文字画像

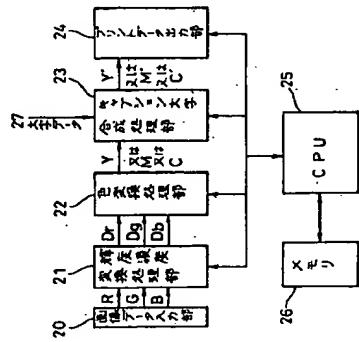
9 キャブション文字表示領域

10 キャブション文字表示領域

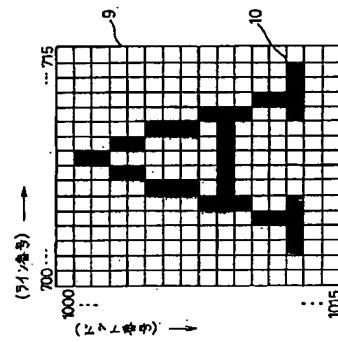
2.0 画像データ入力部

50 2.1 質度変換処理部

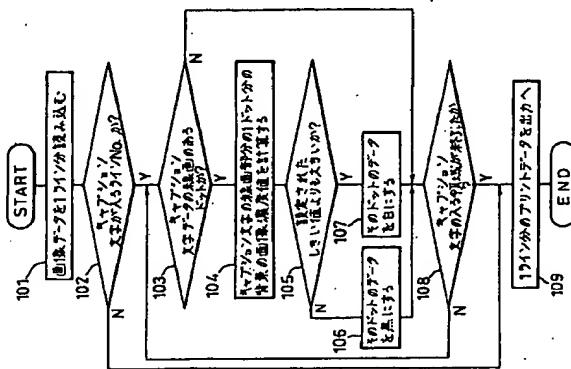
[図3]



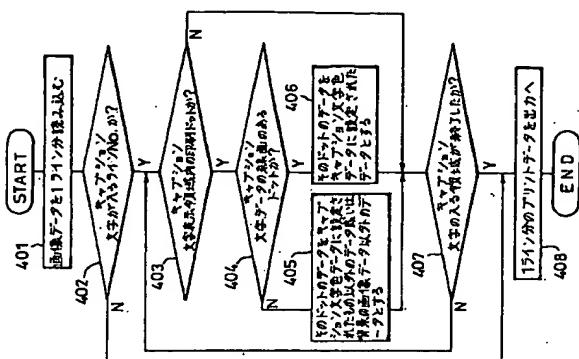
[図5]



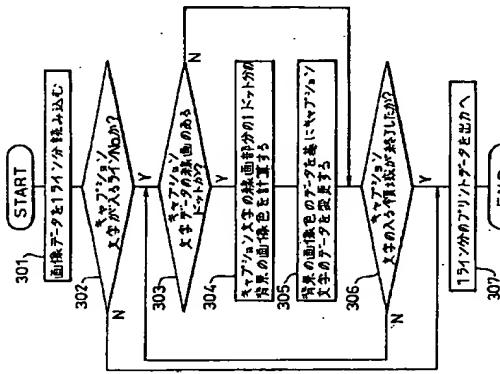
[図6]



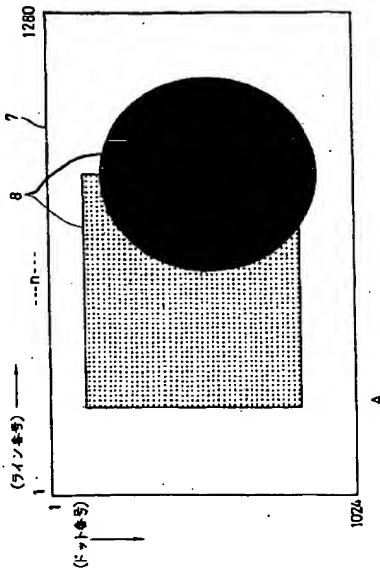
[図7]



[図8]



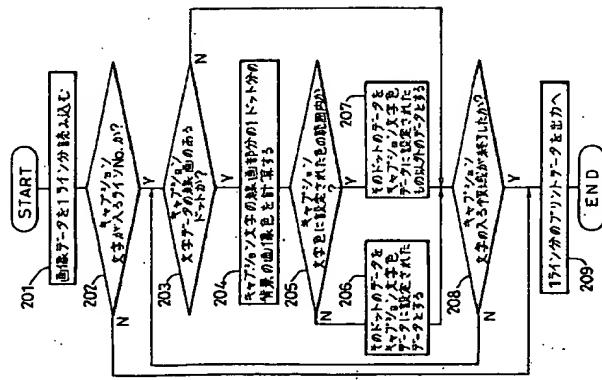
[図4]



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【図7】



【図10】

